Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 255233
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:DJDONCHI/JAN
APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE
EUR/NE:RLFUNSETH
OASD/ISA:COL. WALKER
OASD/ISA:SIENA
S/S-O:JETHYDEN
----------000472 252212Z /63
P R 252009Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY
INFO SECDEF
COMICEDEFOR
CINCLANT
CJCS

S E C R E T STATE 255233

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST
E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NATO, IC

SUBJECT: AWACS DEPLOYMENT TO ICELAND

REFS: (A) REYKJAVIK 1468 DTG 131129Z OCT 77; (B) CINCLANT 031340Z OCT 77; (C) SECDEF 202338 SEPT 77; (D) STATE 231126 DTG 262132Z SEPT 77

1. WE APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON AWACS DEPLOYMENT AND WE AGREE THAT YOU NOT RPT NOT DISCUSS AWACS DEPLOYMENT AT THIS TIME WITH PRIME MINISTER OR OTHER GOI OFFICIALS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 255233

2. THERE ARE SOME ELEMENTS IN THE EQUATION YOU MAY NOT YET BE AWARE OF. ALTHOUGH AGUSTSSON DID NOT REACT WHEN ADVISED BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN OF DECISION TO DEPLOY AWACS, ADMIRAL KIDD WAS ABLE TO FOLLOW UP ON IMPORTANCE OF THIS DECISION DURING NORFOLK PORTION OF MINISTER'S VISIT (SEE ADMIRAL KIDD'S CABLE WHICH WAS POUCHED TO YOU ON OCT. 12).

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

BY THE TIME THE GROUP ARRIVED IN NORFOLK, THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF THE US DECISION TO DEPLOY AWACS TO ICELAND HAD BEEN
GRASPED AND THE ADMIRAL WAS ABLE TO RE-EMPHASIZE THE
ENORMOUS MILITARY ADVANTAGES OF DEPLOYING E-3A AIRCRAFT
TO REPLACE THE EC-121 DETACHMENT AT KEFLAVIK IN 1978.
THE MINISTER'S REACTION WAS POSITIVE (SEE PARA 8, REF B)
AND DEPUTY PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY HELGASON SPECIFICALLY

NOTED THAT SUCH A DEPLOYMENT WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD
ANSWERING CRITICISMS OF THE US DEFENSE POSTURE AT KEFLAVIK
CONTAINED IN THE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE STUDY
WHICH HAD CAUSED SO MANY PROBLEMS FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE
BASE IN ICELAND.

3. WHEN SECRETARY BROWN ADVISED AGUSTSSON OF OUR DECISION
(PARA 3, REF C) HE STRESSED AWACS DEPLOYMENT AS AN ACTION
WE WERE TAKING WHICH WOULD ENHANCE SIGNIFICANTLY THE EARLY
WARNING AND AIR CONTROL CAPABILITIES AT KEFLAVIK AND THESE
ARE AMONG THE PRIMARY FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY THE BASE.
AWACS DEPLOYMENT FALLS INTO THE SAME CATEGORY, ALBEIT ON
A DIFFERENT SCALE, AS UPGRADING THE INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON
TO THE F-4E MODEL. WE BELIEVE THAT THE MINISTER AND HIS
GROUP WERE MOST IMPRESSED WITH THE SOPHISTICATION, CAPA-
BILITY AND EXPENSE OF THE EARLY WARNING RESOURCES WHICH
WE ARE GOING TO DEPLOY TO KEFLAVIK. THIS IS THE REACTION
WE HAD HOPED FOR AND, INDEED, EXPECTED. WE DO NOT BELIEVE
SECRET

SECRET

IT IS DESIRABLE TO ESTABLISH THE PRECEDENT OF SEEKING PER-
MISSION FOR UPGRADING THE EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES WHICH
WE COMMIT IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE DEFENSE POSTURE OF THE
ALLIANCE, ICELAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

4. WHETHER OR NOT PERSONNEL ADJUSTMENTS OR OTHER ARRANGE-
MENTS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE AWACS DEPLOYMENT
IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS TIME. THESE ARE TECHNICAL MATTERS
ACCOMPANYING AN ACTION TAKEN IN THE JOINT INTERESTS OF
ICELANDIC AND US DEFENSE AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT THEY
COULD BE RESOLVED ROUTINELY AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL WHEN
OUR ACTUAL REQUIREMENTS BECOME CLEAR.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT AWACS DEPLOYMENT SHOULD BE KEPT COM-
PLETELY SEPARATE FROM THE TERMINAL ISSUE. THE US IS UNDER
ENOUGH PRESSURE FROM ICELAND ON THE TERMINAL AND GRANTING
THE ICELANDERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXERT LEVERAGE ON THE
TERMINAL ISSUE THROUGH DENIAL OR DELAY OF AWACS DEPLOYMENT
WOULD, IN OUR VIEW, RISK JEOPARDIZING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY
WHILE PUTTING OURSELVES AT A FURTHER TACTICAL DISADVANTAGE.

6. ON THE TERMINAL ISSUE ITSELF WE WERE ENCOURAGED BY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

ONE POSITIVE SIGN OF POSSIBLE MOVEMENT ON THE QUESTION
AND THAT IS THE EMBRYO CONCEPT FOR A WARTIME US HOSPITAL
THAT AROSE IN NORFOLK. AGUSTSSON, AS YOU KNOW, EXPRESSED
INTEREST AND PROMISED TO CONSULT HALLGRIMSSON SOON AFTER
HIS RETURN. THE MINISTER SAID HE HOPED TO REFINE ICE-
LANDIC THINKING ON THE SUBJECT AND OBTAIN ICELANDIC
GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT BEFORE COMING BACK TO YOU WITH AN
ICELANDIC "INITIATIVE" WHICH WOULD BE REPORTED TO

WASHINGTON FOR CONSIDERATION. THUS, ON THE TERMINAL
PROBLEM, THE NEXT STEP IS UP TO ICELAND AND WE BELIEVE
THAT AGUSTSSON IS FULLY AWARE OF THIS. MEANWHILE, THE
DEPARTMENT HAS BEGUN FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE OTHER IMPOR-
TANT BUT LOWER PRIORITY ASPECTS OF THE ICELANDIC REQUESTS
SECRET

SECRET

FOR ASSISTANCE AS SET FORTH IN THE MINISTER'S PREPARED
STATEMENT.

7. FINALLY, BASED ON OUR THINKING THAT AWACS AND THE
TERMINAL BUILDING MUST BE ADDRESSED AS DISTINCT ISSUES,
WE PLAN TO PROCEED ON THE FORMER WHILE AWAITING SOME WORD
FROM THE ICELANDIC SIDE ON THE LATTER.

8. THIS IS A JOINT STATE-DEFENSE MESSAGE. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, AIR DEFENSE, POLICIES, INSTRUCTIONS, WARNING SYSTEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE255233
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DJDONCHI/JAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770392-0324
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771024/aaaaauob.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 290fa827-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 REYKJAVIK 1468
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 800533
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AWACS DEPLOYMENT TO ICELAND
TAGS: MARR, MPOL, IC, US, NATO
To: REYKJAVIK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/290fa827-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009